

Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX: (559) 241-6277

October 4, 2019

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Chris Saeger Executive Director Western Values Project 704C East 13th Street, Suite 568 Whitefish, MT 59937

Re: California Public Records Act Request

Mr. Saeger:

Westlands Water District ("District") hereby responds to the Western Values Project Public Records Act request, dated September 27, 2019, which seeks the following records pursuant to California Government Code § 6250 et seq:

"all email correspondence including attachments sent since May 1, 2017, between David Bernhardt and any of the following individuals (this search for records should include, by not be limited to, all emails from dwbemhardt@ios doi gov, david_bemhardt@ios doi gov, david_bemhardt@ios doi gov, and dbemhardt@hhfs com):

- Any member of the Westlands Water District Board of Directors during this time period
- Thomas W. Birmingham, or anyone else holding the position of General Manager during this time period
- Philip Williams, or anyone else holding the position of "General Counsel" during this time period
- Shelly Ostrowski, or anyone else holding the position of "Associate General Manager - Water Policy" during this time period
- Johnny Amaral, or anyone else holding the position of "Deputy General Manager External Affairs" during this time period
- Sheila Greene, or anyone else holding the position of "Science Advisor" during this time period
- Jose Gutierrez, Dan Pope, or anyone else holding the position of "Deputy General Manager Resources" during this time period
- Russ Freeman, or anyone else holding the position of "Supe1visor of Resources" during this time period"

Pursuant to the Public Records Act, please find enclosed copies of non-exempt responsive records within the possession of the District.

Where multiple copies of the same non-exempt, responsive record were within the District's possession (most often, if not exclusively, where an e-mail was sent to more than one of the District's staff), only one copy of the record has been produced. If you would like multiple copies of such records, please let me know.

The District has determined that: (1) certain responsive records are exempt from disclosure under the Government Code, and (2) some of the information (e.g., account information, e-mail addresses) in otherwise non-exempt records should be redacted.

The bases for these determinations are that certain records are exempt because they:

- pertain to pending litigation (Govt. Code § 6254(b));
- the disclosure is exempted or prohibited pursuant to federal or state law, including, but not limited to, provisions of the Evidence Code (Govt. Code § 6254(k));
- are preliminary drafts, notes, or interagency or intra-agency memoranda that are not retained by the public agency in the ordinary course of business (Govt. Code §6254(a)); and /or
- reflect the deliberative process (Govt. Code §6255)

Information redacted from the records produced is based on the public interest exemption and to protect privacy or for security purposes.¹

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at directly at (559) 241-6215.

Sincerely,

Jose Gutierrez

Chief Operating Officer

¹ The District reserves the right to rely on any other exemptions applicable for the records requested.

From: Johnny Amaral Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 9:46 AM

To: Denny Rehberg; David Bernhardt; 'Smith, Ryan A.'; Dennis Cardoza

Subject: Does anyone see a need for the call today?

I don't have anything on the agenda

From: Bernhardt, David L.

Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 9:53 AM

To: 'Johnny Amaral'

Subject: RE: Does anyone see a need for the call today?

nope

From: Johnny Amaral [mailto:jamaral@westlandswater.org]

Sent: Monday, May 01, 2017 12:46 PM

To: Denny Rehberg; Bernhardt, David L.; Smith, Ryan A.; Dennis Cardoza

Subject: Does anyone see a need for the call today?

I don't have anything on the agenda

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From: Tom Birmingham
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2017 3:46 PM
To: 'Bernhardt, David L.'

Subject: Image of a Hunter



I love the image accompanying Secretary Zinke's statement on your nomination.

From: Bernhardt, David L.

Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 3:27 PM **To:** Thomas W. (Tom) Birmingham Esq.

Subject: Re: Image of a Hunter

Tom: Thanks for the email. My thought was that the image was not loved by the Humane Society, but it was a great one to use when the chairman of the committee handling the nomination is from Alaska.

On May 1, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Tom Birmingham <tbirmingham@westlandswater.org> wrote:

<image001.jpg>

I love the image accompanying Secretary Zinke's statement on your nomination.

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From: Tom Birmingham

Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 5:45 PM

To: 'Bernhardt, David L.'

Subject: RE: Image of a Hunter

Indeed.

From: Bernhardt, David L. [mailto:DBernhardt@BHFS.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2017 3:26 PM

To: Thomas W. (Tom) Birmingham Esq. <tbirmingham@westlandswater.org>

Subject: Re: Image of a Hunter

Tom: Thanks for the email. My thought was that the image was not loved by the Humane Society, but it was a great one to use when the chairman of the committee handling the nomination is from Alaska.

On May 1, 2017, at 6:45 PM, Tom Birmingham <tbirmingham@westlandswater.org> wrote:

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From: Johnny Amaral

Sent: Friday, May 12, 2017 7:04 AM

To: Ryan A. ''Smith; Denny Rehberg; Dennis Cardoza; David L. Bernhardt

Subject: I'm in the pre call

Anyone joining?

Best,

Johnny Amaral Deputy General Manager - External Affairs Westlands Water District From: Johnny Amaral

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 9:51 AM

To: Dennis Cardoza; Denny Rehberg; David L. Bernhardt; Ryan A. ''Smith

Subject: No call today

Best,

Johnny Amaral Deputy General Manager - External Affairs Westlands Water District

From: Johnny Amaral
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2017 1:19 PM
To: David Bernhardt; 'Smith, Ryan A.'; Denny Rehberg; Dennis Cardoza

Subject: no call today

From: Johnny Amaral

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 11:44 AM

To: Denny Rehberg; Dennis Cardoza; David Bernhardt; 'Smith, Ryan A.'

Subject: Friday call

Gents,

I am not available for either call tomorrow because I am a panelist for an issues briefing at the Fresno Chamber of Commerce starting at 7 am. Sorry

Subject: Lunch- David and Tom **Location:**Oceanaire; 1201 F Street NW

Start:6/27/2017 9:00 AM **End:**6/27/2017 10:00 AM **Show Time As:**Busy

Recurrence:(none)

Meeting Status: Accepted

Organizer:tbirmingham@wwddata.com Required Attendees:Bernhardt, David L. Resources:Oceanaire; 1201 F Street NW

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From: David Bernhardt

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 2:50 PM

To: Johnny Amaral

Subject: Fwd: USBR Veteran Brenda W. Burman Nominated as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation

FYI

David Bernhardt

202

Begin forwarded message:

From: "U.S. Department of the Interior" < interior news@updates.interior.gov>

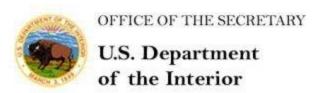
Date: June 27, 2017 at 5:44:11 PM EDT

To: dbernhardt

Subject: USBR Veteran Brenda W. Burman Nominated as Commissioner of the Bureau of

Reclamation

Reply-To: <u>interior_news@updates.interior.gov</u>





Date: June 27, 2017

Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

USBR Veteran Brenda W. Burman Nominated as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation

If confirmed, Burman would be first ever woman to officially lead the bureau

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke praised President Donald Trump's intent to nominate veteran Bureau of Reclamation official Brenda W. Burman as the Commissioner of the Bureau, which is the largest wholesale water supplier in the United States and the nation's second largest producer of hydroelectric power. If confirmed, Burman would be first ever female to lead the Bureau. From 2006 to 2008, she served as Reclamation's Deputy Commissioner for External and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Deputy Assistant Secretary.

"Brenda's depth of knowledge of Western water issues is impressive," **said Secretary Zinke**. "Her background includes working with large Western water agencies, non-governmental organizations and Congress. She will be a valuable addition to the Interior team."

"I welcome this opportunity and am thankful for the chance to serve again on the Bureau of Reclamation team," **said Brenda Burman**."The men and woman of Reclamation have helped the West work through our most difficult water issues for over a hundred years. If confirmed, I look forward to working with Secretary Zinke and the administration to solve our most pressing water issues."

As Commissioner, Burman would lead an agency of more than 5,000 employees who help maintain 475 dams and 337 reservoirs that provide more than 30 million acre-feet (10 trillion gallons) of water for 31 million people in the 17 Western states. The Commissioner is also responsible for Reclamation's maintenance of 53 hydroelectric power plants that generate 40 billion kilowatt hours annually – about 15 percent of the nation's hydropower – and provides one out of five Western farmers with irrigation water for farmland that is the source of much of the nation's produce.

"Brenda Burman's deep background in thorny western water issues will serve her well in leading the Bureau of Reclamation," **said Senator Jeff Flake**, the Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Water and Power Subcommittee. "I look forward to her quick confirmation so she can continue the Bureau's critical work including protecting Lake Mead."

"Brenda Burman is highly qualified to be the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation and I am proud to support her nomination," **said U.S. Senator John McCain**. "Brenda brings a wealth of knowledge on federal water policy and drought conditions in the West forged through years of service at the Department of Interior and as legislative counsel to former U.S. Senator Jon Kyl, one of the nation's foremost experts on federal and tribal water law. I encourage my colleagues in the Senate to swiftly confirm her nomination."

"I applaud President Trump's outstanding selection of Brenda Burman as Commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation," **said Arizona Governor Doug Ducey**. "Ms. Burman is an experienced water professional. Her two decades of experience and tremendous service to the country – including as deputy commissioner for the Bureau and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, as well as her work with the U.S. Senate on water and energy legislation – affirm the wisdom of this appointment."

"Brenda Burman is an excellent choice for Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. She has the utmost respect and unwavering confidence of those who have worked with her side-by-side for years and has proven time and again her ability to expertly maneuver complex issues day in and day out," **said Congressman Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.** "Brenda is no stranger to the Department of the Interior, water issues or the West. She is eminently qualified for this position and I look forward to continue working closely with her following her confirmation."

"It is difficult to imagine someone more qualified or well-suited to lead the Bureau of Reclamation," said Southern Nevada Water Authority General Manager John Entsminger. "Having served the water community for many years in a variety of roles, Brenda's ability to navigate the sometimes turbulent and always complex issues we face in the Western United States is unsurpassed. She will be an asset to the federal government and a resource for the myriad stakeholders who rely upon the Bureau's leadership and guidance."

"As someone who has over 10 years experience as a Regional Director with Bureau of Reclamation in two separate Regions, I have seen what it takes to succeed as Commissioner," **said Roger K. Patterson**, Assistant General Manager for the Metropolitan Water District of California. "Without a doubt, Brenda has the experience, skills, energy and vision to be a successful. I'm excited about the work she will do and I wish her the best."

"Brenda's knowledge and experience in water development and management along with her personal characteristics of honesty and integrity make her an outstanding nominee to be Commissioner of Reclamation," said former Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Bob **Johnson**. "She will provide the leadership needed to help address the complex water management issues of the 21st-century."

"It is vital to have experienced, committed and knowledgeable leaders who can work cooperatively to solve complicated water issues," said National Water Resources Association Executive Vice President Ian Lyle. "Ms. Burman has made a career of working collaboratively with diverse interests to resolve complex water issues, both in government and in the private sector. Her character and experience make her an ideal candidate to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. The National Water Resources Association is honored to offer Ms. Burman our strongest endorsement."

Burman currently serves as the Director of Water Policy for Arizona's Salt River Project. Prior to that, she worked for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, The Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Senator Jon Kyl. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arizona College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Kenyon College.

###



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GOVDELIVERY

From: Johnny Amaral

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 3:00 PM

To: 'David Bernhardt'

Subject: RE: USBR Veteran Brenda W. Burman Nominated as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation

Dream Team....

With Bernhardt as the QB

From: David Bernhardt [mailto:dbernhardt

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 2:50 PM

To: Johnny Amaral < jamaral@westlandswater.org>

Subject: Fwd: USBR Veteran Brenda W. Burman Nominated as Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation

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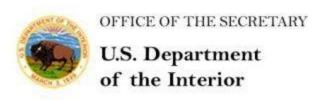
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###



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GOVDELIVERY **P**

From: Bernhardt, David L.

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 1:21 PM

To: 'Johnny Amaral' **Subject:** First Trip

Attachments: Invoice_670435 014117.0016.pdf

First Trip.

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Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

300 South El Camino Real

Suite 203

San Clemente, CA 92672

Phone: 949-498-3879 Facsimile: 949-498-6197

http: www.bhfs.com

Westlands Water District

Attn: Thomas W. Birmingham, General Manager

P.O. Box 6056

Fresno, CA 93703-6056

Invoice Date: Invoice #: Client.Matter #: March 08, 2017 670435

014117.0016

Payable Upon Receipt

Client: Westlands Water District

Matter: Evaluation of

INVOICE SUMMARY

For Professional Services Rendered Through February 28, 2017

TOTAL FEES \$ -

COSTS

\$ 127.14 Delivery/Ground Transportation Lodging 265.54

> **Total Costs** 392.68

> **Total Amount Due This Invoice** \$ 392.68



Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

300 South El Camino Real

Suite 203

San Clemente, CA 92672

Phone: 949-498-3879 Facsimile: 949-498-6197

http: www.bhfs.com

Westlands Water District Attn: Thomas W. Birmingham, General Manager

P.O. Box 6056

Fresno, CA 93703-6056

Invoice Date: Invoice #: Client.Matter #: March 08, 2017 670435 014117.0016

Re: Evaluation of

For Professional Services Rendered Through February 28, 2017

Total Fees \$ -

COSTS

<u>Date</u>	Description	Amount
12/19/2016	Delivery/Ground Transportation - David L. Bernhardt - Rental	\$ 83.14
	Car - Westlands Board Meeting - David Bernhardt	
12/19/2016	Delivery/Ground Transportation - David L. Bernhardt - Taxi/Car	22.00
	Service - Westlands Board Meeting - David Bernhardt	
12/19/2016	Lodging - David L. Bernhardt - Hotel - Lodging - Westlands	265.54
	Board Meeting - David Bernhardt	
12/21/2016	Delivery/Ground Transportation - David L. Bernhardt - Taxi/Car	22.00
	Service - Westlands Board Meeting - David Bernhardt	
	Total Costs	\$ 392.68

COST SUMMARY

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Delivery/Ground Transportation	\$ 127.14
Lodging	265.54
	\$ 392.68

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Westlands Water District
Re: Evaluation of Invoice Bate: March 08, 2017
Invoice #: 670435
Client.Matter #: 014117.0016
Page 2

Total Amount Due This Invoice

Previous Balance
Less Credits

Invoice Date: March 08, 2017
Invoice #: 670435
Client.Matter #: 014117.0016
Page 2

\$ 392.68

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP 300 South El Camino Real

Suite 203

San Clemente, CA 92672

Phone: 949-498-3879 Facsimile: 949-498-6197

http: www.bhfs.com

EIN: 26-1367865

Westlands Water District

Attn: Thomas W. Birmingham, General Manager

P.O. Box 6056

Fresno, CA 93703-6056

Invoice Date: March 08, 2017
Invoice #: 670435
Client.Matter #: 014117.0016

Payable Upon Receipt

Re: Evaluation of

For Professional Services Rendered Through February 28, 2017

Previous Balance Less Credits	\$ -
Balance Forward	\$ -
Total Fees	\$ -
Total Costs	392.68
Total Amount Due This Invoice	\$ 392.68
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$ 392.68

PLEASE SEND WITH CHECK TO:

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

P.O. Box 172168 Denver, CO 80217-2168

NOTE: The above address is for regular mail delivery only NO PAYMENTS SHOULD BE SENT CERTIFIED MAIL

OR via Courier Service To:

KeyBank Lockbox Operations Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

> Lockbox #6025 11030 Circle Point Road Westminster, CO 80021

WIRE FUNDS TO:

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Bank Name: KeyBank of Colorado Bank Address: 1675 Broadway Denver, CO 80202

ABA#: Account #

Ref: 014117.0016, Invoice No. 670435

From: Bernhardt, David L.

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 1:26 PM

To: 'Johnny Amaral'

Subject: Invoice for the State/PR and Fed Strategy meeting

Attachments: Invoice_670434 014117.0002.pdf

Johnny: This is my error. Once, I de-registered, the matter name on the invoice should have been modified to more accurately reflect the scope of the activities, and not simply say Federal Lobbying. I should have had the matter description changed.

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Suite 203

San Clemente, CA 92672

Phone: 949-498-3879 Facsimile: 949-498-6197

http: www.bhfs.com

Westlands Water District Attn: Bobbie Ormonde, Director of Finance and Administration 3130 N. Fresno St.

Fresno, CA 93703

Invoice Date: March 08, 2017 Invoice #: 670434 Client.Matter #: 014117.0002

Re: Federal Lobbying

For Professional Services Rendered February 2017

Total Fees \$ 25,000.00

COSTS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	Amount
01/24/2017	Airfare - American Express - United Airlines : DC to Denver to	\$ 1,773.04
	Sacramento to Chicago to DC on 01/31/2017	
01/27/2017	Telephone - Level 3 Communications, LLC - Conference Call	5.12
01/31/2017	Business Meals - David L. Bernhardt - Hotel - Dinner - Westlands	43.81
	Trip - D. Bernhardt	
01/31/2017	Delivery/Ground Transportation - David L. Bernhardt - Taxi/Car	20.00
	Service - Westlands Trip - David Bernhardt	
01/31/2017	Delivery/Ground Transportation - David L. Bernhardt - Taxi/Car	33.00
	Service - Westlands Trip - David Bernhardt	
02/01/2017	Business Meals - David L. Bernhardt - Hotel - Breakfast -	22.49
	Westlands Trip - D. Bernhardt	
02/02/2017	Delivery/Ground Transportation - David L. Bernhardt - Taxi/Car	25.00
	Service - Westlands Trip - David Bernhardt	
02/02/2017	Lodging - David L. Bernhardt - Hotel - Lodging - Westlands Trip	481.60
	- David Bernhardt	
02/10/2017	Telephone - Level 3 Communications, LLC - Conference Call	6.10
02/17/2017	Telephone - Level 3 Communications, LLC - Conference Call	5.02
02/22/2017	Research - Lexis - LJJ - 1836	0.85
02/22/2017	Research - Lexis - LJJ - 1836	16.65
	Total Costs	\$ 2,432.68

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Westlands Water District Re: Federal Lobbying Invoice Date: Invoice #: Client.Matter #: March 08, 2017 670434 014117.0002 Page 2

(25,000.00)

\$ 27,432.68

COST SUMMARY

<u>Description</u>		<u>Amount</u>	
Airfare		\$ 1,773.04	
Business Meals		66.30	
Delivery/Ground Transportation		78.00	
Lodging		481.60	
Research - Lexis		17.50	
Telephone		16.24	
		\$ 2,432.68	
	Total Amount Due This Invoice		\$ 27,432.68
	Previous Balance		\$ 25,000.00

Less Credits

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

300 South El Camino Real

Suite 203

San Clemente, CA 92672

Phone: 949-498-3879 Facsimile: 949-498-6197

http: www.bhfs.com

EIN: 26-1367865

Westlands Water District

Attn: Bobbie Ormonde, Director of Finance and Administration

3130 N. Fresno St. Fresno, CA 93703

Invoice Date: Invoice #:

March 08, 2017

670434 Client.Matter #: 014117.0002

Payable Upon Receipt

Re: Federal Lobby

For Professional Services Rendered February 2017

Previous Balance \$ 25,000.00 Less Credits (25,000.00)

Balance Forward

Total Fees \$25,000.00

Total Costs 2,432.68

Total Amount Due This Invoice \$ 27,432.68

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE \$ 27,432.68

PLEASE SEND WITH CHECK TO:

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

P.O. Box 172168 Denver, CO 80217-2168

NOTE: The above address is for regular mail delivery only NO PAYMENTS SHOULD BE SENT CERTIFIED MAIL

OR via Courier Service To:

KeyBank Lockbox Operations Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

> Lockbox #6025 11030 Circle Point Road Westminster, CO 80021

WIRE FUNDS TO:

Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

Bank Name: KeyBank of Colorado Bank Address: 1675 Broadway Denver, CO 80202

> ABA# Account #:

Ref: 014117.0002, Invoice No. 670434

From: Bernhardt, David L.

Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 1:58 PM

To: 'Johnny Amaral' **Subject:** Going forward

Going forward the Matter two will be named DC Based Government Affairs.

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From: Johnny Amaral

Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 4:41 PM

To: David Bernhardt

Subject: Fwd: CPRA submittals to PCL

Best,

Johnny Amaral Deputy General Manager - External Affairs Westlands Water District

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Carter < <u>jcarter@westlandswater.org</u>>

Date: July 19, 2017 at 4:36:20 PM PDT

To: 'Johnny Amaral' < jamaral@westlandswater.org>

Cc: 'Dan Pope' < dpope@westlandswater.org>

Subject: RE: CPRA submittals to PCL

Reply-To: Jim Carter < <u>jcarter@westlandswater.org</u>>

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Search for downloaded file, and select.

After the PST is open, you will be presented with a top level folder named the same as the PST file name.

From: David Bernhardt

Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 2:59 PM

To: Johnny Amaral

Subject: Fwd: Google Alert - "David Bernhardt"

This is false I was not in these meetings.

David Bernhardt

202

Begin forwarded message:

From: Google Alerts < googlealerts-noreply@google.com>

Date: July 19, 2017 at 6:15:16 PM EDT

To: dbernhardt

Subject: Google Alert - "David Bernhardt"

Google Alerts

"David Bernhardt"

As-it-happens update - July 19, 2017

NEWS

Trump nominee kept working with client after pledge to stop lobbying Reveal (blog)

In recent years, Washington lobbyist **David Bernhardt** emerged as a go-to guy for energy producers, mining companies and agribusiness concerns ...



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Trump pick for 6th Circuit advances in Senate squeaker

E&E News

The Senate today advanced President Trump's second pick for an open seat on the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Senators voted 51-48 to end ...



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Hockeybuzz.com (blog)

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TexasGOPVote

This week, we will press forward with two important nominations, John Bush to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit and **David Bernhardt** ...



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Send Feedback

From: David Bernhardt

Sent: Saturday, July 22, 2017 2:33 PM

To: Johnny Amaral

Subject: Trump nominee kept working with client after pledge to stop lobbying | Reveal

https://www.revealnews.org/blog/trump-nominee-kept-working-with-client-after-pledge-to-stop-lobbying/

David Bernhardt 202